Fellowship for outstanding artistes

500. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any scheme for the award of fellowship to outstanding artistes in the fields of performing, literary and plastic arts;

(b) if so, the details and main features of the scheme;

(c) whether any fellowship has been awarded in the State of Goa; and

(d) if so, the number of such fellowships awarded, amount made available and the years during which these fellowships were granted?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI ABMIKA SONI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Ministry of Culture under the scheme of "Award of fellowship of outstanding artistes in the fields of performing, literary and plastic arts" awards junior and senior fellowships of the value of Rs. 6000/- p.m. and Rs. 12000/- p.m. to the artistes in the age group of 25-40 years and 40 years and above respectively. These fellowships are awarded to deserving applicants after ascertaining his/her capabilities in undertaking research oriented projects both academic as well as performance related. The fellowships are awarded for a period of two years only.

(c) and (d) In recent years, in 2004-05, one juniour fellowship and one senior fellowship has been awarded to applicants from Goa, for which a sum of Rs. 1.20 lakhs and Rs. 2.40 lakhs were disbursed respectively.

Multipurpose Cultural Complex

501. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has a scheme for setting up of Multipurpose Cultural Complexes and for giving them financial assistance;

(b) whether the State Government of Goa had applied to the Central Government under the scheme; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI ABMIKA SONI): (a) A Scheme for setting up of Multipurpose Cultural Complexes, which was in existence till 31.3.2007, has been discontinued by Planning Commission from the current financial year.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Preservation of the classical dances

502. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken any steps to preserve the classical dance form of Bharatnatyam;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the achievements made thereon;

(c) whether any study was conducted by Government on the decreasing popularity of the classical dance forms;

(d) if so, the details and the outcome thereof; and

(e) the steps proposed to promote Bharatnatyam in the wake of onslaught of western dance forms through various television channels?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI ABMIKA SONI): (a) and (b) Sangeet Natak Akademi, an autonomous organization under Ministry of Culture, has taken several measures to promote and preserve the age old traditions of Bharatnatyam. These measures include organizing seminars, festivals. programmes, workshops, granting financial assistance to cultural institutions, enriching the library with books on Bharatnatyam for the benefit of scholars and researchers, conducting training programmes, documentation and special recordings including films on Masters of Bharatnatyam like Balasaraswati, Kittappa Pillai etc. and honouring artists with Akademi Fellowships, Akademi Awards and Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar.

(c) and (d) No such study has been conducted.

(e) The steps taken to promote Bharatnayam have already been enumerated at (a) above and these efforts are continuing.

Dilapidated Condition of historical forts and places

†503. SHRI GYAN PRAKSAH PILANIA : Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that the famous historical forts and palaces, havelis and temples of cultural importance of Rajasthan are in a very dilapidated condition;

(b) whether Government is alert to the conservation of existing structure and remains of Indian archaeological importance; and

(c) if so, the details of the efforts to be made by Government?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) Continuous conservation efforts are made by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) in respect of protected monuments of national importance including those in Rajasthan.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Conservation of monuments is a continuous process. Every year, conservation by way of structural repairs, chemical preservation and environmental development is taken up for selected monuments depending upon their needs and availability of resources. Besides, routine maintenance is attended to by ASI for the Centrally protected monuments.

Auditing of account of the three Akademies

504. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) how much grants were given to Sahitya Akademi, Sangeet Natak Akademi and Lalit Kala Akademi during 2005 and 2006 and whether their accounts have been audited;

(b) if so, whether any irregularities have been detected;

(c) whether the objectives envisaged while setting up these organizations have been fulfilled; and

(d) whether any modification is required in the objectives and methodology to extend the reach of Indian cultural heritage in global perspective?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.